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SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 APRIL 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iran advanced west of the Fish Lake, seized new positions east of Basra, and overtook "one of the strongest" Iraqi defense fortifications in overnight operations, IRNA announced citing a military communique. A "fierce" battle took place and Iranian forces consolidated the positions taken so far, the agency noted. The number of Iraqis killed or wounded in the 8-9 April fighting reached 2,400, the IRNA reported. Just after the start of the "Karbala'-8" operation on 7 April, Tehran radio reported more than 2,600 Iraqis had been killed or wounded.

In continued attacks on 9 April, dozens of Iranian aircraft bombarded Iraqi positions in the "Karbala'-8" operational theater in five separate missions, IRNA reported. Iranian ground forces shot down two Iraqi aircraft over the area and another was shot down near Bandar-e Mam the previous day, IRNA announced in separate reports. Iranian forces also reported thwarting two Iraqi chemical attacks, downing one of the helicopters used in the attempt, IRNA noted.

On 8 April, Iraqi aircraft raided Iran's Ahvaz oilfield, destroying the pumping station and production unit, the Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraq's Air Force also hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, the spokesman told INA. In another statement to the radio, he said forces at Al-'Amiq sank 6 of 28 Iranian vessels that attempted to approach the Iraqi port. The spokesman also denied Iran downed an Iraqi plane, INA added.

In a separate development, IRNA disclosed that Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline in the Zakhu region on 4 April. According to the agency's sources, export of Iraqi oil through the line was disrupted.

Arab Affairs

Arab League members are ready to allow Egypt back into the the organization, Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general said at a news conference in Tunis, AFP reported. Klibi called on other Arab states to work together toward this end. Neither KUNA, which reported the news conference, nor other Arab media, were observed to mention Klibi's remarks on Egypt's return to the organization.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Soviet representatives met for a second time in Rome on 8 April. Peres said the two sides are "currently at the peak of a rapprochement process" and that differences still exist but can be bridged, Jerusalem radio reported. IDF radio added that Peres viewed the meeting as "sincere" and felt that contacts would continue. On the Soviet side, expectations created after the first meeting "definitely cooled down" when the discussion turned to specifics rather than principles and general perceptions, Jerusalem television noted.

According to senior Israeli officials cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, Peres is now expected to meet his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze "within the next few weeks." The paper claimed that one purpose of Peres' talks in Rome was to pave the way for an anticipated meeting.

Davar noted that Soviet representative Aleksandr Zotov said the USSR "will think about the possibility of inviting an Israeli delegation to Moscow." Zotov also said that talks with Israel "will continue on all levels," the paper added. USSR's Karen Brutents, however, denied that Foreign Minister Peres has been invited to Moscow, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Lebanon

Camps Situation — Beirut radio reported that ambulances were able to enter Shatila and evacuate wounded residents on 8 April following the deployment of Syrian troops around the camp. On the same day Syrian Army units deployed around Burj al-Barajinah, establishing eight observation posts, Voice of Lebanon Radio noted. Meanwhile, fighting flared between Palestinians and Amal fighters east of Sidon, the radio said. PNSF officials, Syrian officers, and Amal officials have been instructed to leave the area in a bid to persuade the Palestinian gunmen to withdraw to the camps, Voice of Lebanon radio added.

Security — Gunmen assassinated a senior Syrian intelligence official in West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. A group calling itself the "Long Arm Organization" claimed responsibility for the attack, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

Israeli Overflights — Israeli aircraft made four overflights in the Sidon area and staged a mock raid, Beirut radio reported, noting the planes were confronted by antiaircraft fire.

Iraq-USSR

President Saddam Husayn received Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, INA reported. The message affirms the "depth of friendship" between the USSR and Iraq and the USSR's desire to continue these relations as well as the Soviet Union's eagerness to exert all efforts to end the Gulf war, the agency noted. Talks between Husayn and Demichev covered the regional situation and other international issues of common interest, INA added.

Libya-USSR

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Yuriy Vorontsov, USSR deputy foreign minister, who brought him a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Tripoli television reported. TASS said the meeting included regional issues, adding that the USSR denounces "hostile designs" against Libya and points out the inadmissibility of imperialist interference in regional conflicts with a view to heightening tension around Libya. The agency indicated that this refers to the Chad crisis "to a full extent." In a statement to JANA, Vorontsov affirmed the USSR's "full solidarity" with Libya and praised bilateral relations.

Algeria

A murdered French lawyer of Algerian origin was an activist in the Algerian opposition movement, Paris radio reported. An opposition leader in exile and former President Ahmed Ben Bella alleged that Algerian security service were responsible for the attack, the radio said. Algeria deplored the "dastardly assassination" and said attempts to implicate Algeria were a "publicity stunt," Algiers radio reported citing APS.

Iranian Helicopter in Turkey

An Iranian lieutenant and NCO who landed in Turkey on 2 April will be returned to Iranian officials, Ankara radio announced. The remaining 4 passengers, an Iranian major and his family, have requested asylum, the radio added.

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RSFSR Transport Minister Arrives for Talks

LD090820 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Yuriy Sergeyevich Sukhin, minister of motor transport of the RSFSR, arrived in Kabul this morning leading a delegation for a friendly and official visit.

At Kabul International Airport the Soviet guests were welcomed by Sher Jan Mazduryar, the DRA minister of transport, the leadership board of that ministry, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador to the DRA.

According to a report by BIA, the Soviet delegation this afternoon met the minister of transport at the headquarters of the Transport Ministry, and discussions were held on topics of mutual interests and reciprocal cooperation in transport affairs.

USSR Economic Relations Committee Group Arrives

LD082127 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation of experts of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations arrived in Kabul today to assess the implementation of projects under construction in the DRA with the economic and technical cooperation of the Soviet Union.

According to a report by the *Bakhtar Information Agency*, the delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Mohammad Aziz, vice-chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador to Kabul.

DYOA First Secretary Leads Delegation to Moscow

LD082144 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Farid Ahmad Mazdak, candidate member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, lead a delegation that departed this morning for Moscow at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Leninist All-Union Komsomol organization to take part in the 20th Congress of the Komsomol.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador to the DRA.

Jowzjan National Reconciliation Commission Meets

LD081153 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 07 Apr 87

[Text] A session of the Presidium of the National Reconciliation Commission of Jowzjan Province was held yesterday. A report was presented to the session on the work and activities of the commission by Sayyed Husayn Hashemi, head of the provincial National Reconciliation Commission of Jowzjan Province.

The National Reconciliation Commission of Jowzjan Province has until now managed to create 11 national reconciliation commissions with a membership of 561, including 52 persons belonging to opposition groups, and 161 peace jirgahs with a composition of 1,647 members, including 202 persons belonging to the opposition groups. As a result of the activities of the national reconciliation commissions, 834 families comprising 4,264 persons have returned to the province and received the necessary assistance. The report adds that until now close contacts have been established with 21 opposition groups comprising 1,003 armed persons and 1,113 unarmed persons.

The party and state bodies of Jowzjan Province have donated more than 500,000 afghanis to the national reconciliation commission. Similarly, in light of the policy of national reconciliation, 152 prisoners have been released from prison in Jowzjan Province. Five armed opposition groups have until now observed a cease-fire in Jowzjan Province, and eight opposition group comprising 803 armed persons and 1,172 unarmed persons have joined the process of national reconciliation in that province.

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Kamentsev Arrives

BK071602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Soviet Deputy prime minister, Mr Kamentsev, arrived in the capital today heading a high-powered delegation. Mr Kamentsev was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, the Soviet ambassador, and others. He is the cochairman of the Indo-Soviet economic, technical and scientific commission.

Meets With Shiv Shanker

BK081603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr Shiv Shanker, has emphasized the need for increasing Indo-Soviet bilateral trade substantially during the next 5 years. The minister made these observations in New Delhi today during his talks with the visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr V.M. Kamentsev. The talks covered wide-ranging subjects especially relating to trade and commerce.

Mr Shiv Shanker told Mr Kamentsev that several new items have been identified for exports from India. The possibilities of collaboration in three hotel projects in the Soviet Union also figured during the talks. The Soviet side showed interest in the exchange of a wide range of machinery, equipment and manufactured goods.

Mr Shiv Shanker also referred to the problems of the tobacco industry and impressed upon the Soviet side for exploring the possibilities of importing of more tobacco. The commerce minister also welcomed the Soviet decision to set up an office of the Soviet-India Chamber of Commerce in Moscow.

AFP: Gandhi To Make 'Brief' Moscow Visit in July

BK090700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is to pay a brief weekend visit to Moscow in July to open a Festival of India in the Soviet captial, Foreign Ministry officials said here Thursday.

Mr Gandhi would leave here on the night of July 2 and return on the morning of July 4. He is to spend only 18 hours in Moscow according to the schedule planned for the visit, his third to the Soviet Union.

Mr Gandhi would return home for the Indian presidential election expected to be held on July 6. An electoral college comprising the federal parliament and state legislators are to choose a successor to outgoing President Zail Singh.

The Indian premier visited the Soviet Union twice in 1985 and stopped over briefly last year when his plane developed problems returning to India from Hungary. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited India in November.

Indian External Affairs Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari said here Thursday that Mr Gandhi would use the visit to "further strengthen the bonds of cultural friendship" between the two countries. He was speaking after releasing a book entitled "India-USSR: The Peacemakers" on the Delhi declaration on disarmament and peace issued during Mr Gorbachev's visit to India.

Mr Tiwari said the declaration contained the "philosophy of peace for the 21st century" and regretted that it had not been studied in depth by analysts.

The document called for a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world which he said "transcends all ideologies and paves the way for a new world economic order based on amity and peace."

AFP: Papers Say Gandhi-Singh Rift 'Reduced'

BK090704 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Zail Singh have reduced differences that had led the president to charge the premier with lying to parliament, newspapers reported here Thursday.

The two men met for a second time in 11 days here Wednesday after months of severely strained relations as Mr Gandhi continued moves to end a row that became public last month with *The Indian Express* publishing a stinging letter written by the president.

Mr Singh said after the 45-minute meeting at the presidential palace: "All our differences are over." Mr Gandhi, who was accused of not briefing the president on Indian policies as the constitution requires, only smiled broadly, newspaper reports said.

They met again Wednesday at a dinner hosted for members of parliament by the president, who is to retire in July.

Mr Gandhi told parliament on March 2 that he regularly and personally kept the president informed about all major national issues. Mr Singh denied the claim in the letter published on March 13, triggering a bitter row.

At Wednesday's meeting the premier briefed Mr Singh on a controversy sparked by the hiring of a U.S. detective agency to probe illegal billions stashed away abroad by Indians, the reporters said.

The Hindu newspaper said Thursday that the meeting conveyed a "message of hope" that the "damage done to the two top institutions because of the recent controversy would be undone."

Wednesday's meeting came after Mr Singh wrote a second letter to Mr Gandhi this month drawing his attention to reports that a commission inquiring into Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 1984 assassination had recommended an investigation into the president's role, *The Hindu* said. Mr Singh wanted the govern-

ment to contradict such reports, pointing out that he himself could not do so as he had not seen the report, it said.

Foreign Ministry Report on Sri Lanka, Pakistan, PRC

BK090332 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The government has expressed concern over the continuing ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka and Pakistan's nuclear program. In its annual report the External Affairs Ministry says New Delhi is anxious over the situation in the island and the Sri Lankan Government's adherence to the new proposal which has been in doubt. The situation in the Tamil areas has taken a turn for the worse and prospects of resuming negotiations remain uncertain.

About Pakistan, the report says efforts to improve relations with it have been negated following Islamabad's assistance to Punjab terrorists, its program to develop nuclear weapons, procurement of sophisticated weapons, and its reluctance to develop nondiscriminatory trade with India. The situation was further aggravated in January by the provocative build up of Pakistani forces on the Punjab border.

On China, the report said that efforts to settle the boundary issue were adversely affected by the Chinese intrusion into Arunachal Pradesh.

The report points out that continued efforts were made to foster friendly and cooperative relations with the neighbors.

Peace, disarmament, and development remained the main thrust of the country's foreign policy.

Border Security Forces Arrest Pakistani 'Intruders'

BK081422 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, 14 intruders from Pakistan have been arrested at different places along the Indo-Pakistan border last night. According to the BSF [Border Security Forces] sources seven of them were nabbed from Khem Karan sector, four from (Gharinda) and three from (Khalwal).

Refugees From Bangladesh Exceed 49,000 by 1 Apr

BK081445 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The Indian Government has urged Bangladesh to ensure conditions for the return of refugees from India. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that there has been a continuous influx of refugees from Bangladesh and the number has risen to over 49,000 by the 1st of this month.

The government, the spokesman said, has been in touch with the Bangladesh authorities at various levels to sort out the problem through a dialogue. The discussions will continue, he added.

Punjab Police Arrest 2 'Killers' for Prasad Murder

BK080326 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, six persons were killed and three injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities last night. In Hoshiarpur District, three persons were shot dead and two seriously injured in village Bashoi near Mahilpur. In Amritsar, a couple was gunned down in (Sultan Bind) area of the city. In Jullundur, a head constable was killed and a constable seriously injured when two suspected terrorists opened fire on them in Adarshnagar area. The two policemen were on patrol duty when they were attacked.

The state police have arrested two killers involved in the murder of the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr Shambhu Prasad, who was gunned down in Patiala on the 17th of last month. The arrested persons have been identified as Jagir Singh and Gurmit Singh.

The Patiala District police chief told newsmen yesterday that four more accomplices of the culprits have been identified and they are likely to be arrested soon.

Scientists Keep Up on Uranium Enrichment Technology

BK081441 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Indian scientists are keeping abreast of all aspects of research and development connected with uranium enrichment technology.

The minister of state for atomic energy, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said in the Lok Sabha today the government is aware that Pakistan is having an enrichment plant at Kahuta with capability to produce weapon grade uranium.

The minister said India's policy continues to be to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

President Comments on Kashmir, Afghanistan Issues

BK081637 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan wants to solve the Kashmir issue with India peacefully. He said this in Mangla today while speaking at a luncheon in his honor hosted by Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan.

The president said military means cannot solve any problems; rather, they create additional problems. That is why Pakistan fully supports normalization of relations with India. He added it is imperative to solve the Kashmir question amicably for good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan. Once this issue is resolved, nothing will impede good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

He stated that Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiri people as set forth in the relevent UN resolutions and in accordance with international principles. He said Islam was the raison d'etre of Pakistan. Similarly, Kashmir was also founded on Islam. That is why Pakistan can never overlook the Kashmir issue.

Referring to the Afghan problem, the president commended the spirit of the Afghan people and said they have never feared any threat and for the past 7 years they have been relentlessly struggling for independence and Islamic values. He said Pakistan on its part is supporting their just stand by providing shelter to the Afghan people in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood. He called on the international community to extend moral support to the proud people of Afghanistan. He said that the Soviet Union has now hinted at a political solution to the Afghan problem. He said he hoped that the displaced people of Afghanistan will return to their homes after this problem is resolved.

Earlier, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan thanked Pakistan for supporting the Kashmiri people. The reception was attended by Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Hayat Khan, Azad Kashmir Cabinet members, elected representatives, and high civil officials.

Four Saboteurs Confess As Afghan Agents of KHAD

BK031159 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Quetta, March 25: Four alleged saboteurs nabbed by the police earlier this month confessed they were agents of the Kabul regime secret service "KHAD" and were sent here to carry out a series of terrorist operations.

The group, arrested from Chaman and Quetta on March 13 with more than 5 kilograms of highly powerful explosives of Russian orgin, disclosed to newsmen here today details of their sabotage mission.

They told pressmen that the Kabul authorities had promised them that if caught they would be swapped for Pakistani nationals held in Afghanistan.

Following their arrest the police had recovered another 14½ kg of explosives as well as plastic bombs with time fuse and detonators and three stolen motor bikes with the help of information given by the members of the gang.

The accused identified as Mulla Abdul Qayyum, Mohammad Gul, Abdul Samad and Fateh Mohammad were said to hail from taken from Qandahar to Kabul from where they had brought the explosives. [sentence as published]

Mullah Abdul Qayyum, described as ring leader said he was assigned to plant a bomb at Quetta airport which he could not do because of strict security arrangements.

Senior Superintendent of Police Quetta Humayun Jogezai, informed newsmen the agents had confessed that they had planned to play havoc in Quetta city. Their plan included destruction of International Red Crescent Hospital for Afghan refugees at Beleli near the provincial capital.

Jogezai said the culprits also confessed that had planned to smuggle exlosive material to Karachi for terrorist acts there by another group.

SRI LANKA

Foreign Minister Rules Out Entering Defense Pacts

BK081117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Sri Lanka has taken every possible step to see that the conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace is held. The minister of foreign affairs, A.C.S. Hameed, replying to a question at adjournment in Parliament yesterday said that if the two superpowers agreed, the conference could be held immediately. He said it has been postponed five times because some countries are of the view that the security situation in the Indian Ocean did not permit the implementation of the declaration.

Mr Hameed said that the United Nations and members of the ad-hoc committee fully appreciated the work done by Sri Lanka as chairman of the committee. Questions in this regard were raised by the Member of Parliament for Attanagala Lakshman Jaykodi and the Member of Parliament for Kalawana (Devo Gunasekara).

Replying to another question raised by Mr Jaykodi, the foreign minister said that the government does not propose to enter into a defense pact with any country. He noted that the government's policy is nonalignment and this was not the monopoly of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

Jayewardene Responds to Gandhi's Proposals on Tamils

BK090810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, April 9 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has asked India to name those Tamil separatist groups which are ready to resume peace talks on ending the sectarian conflict, reliable sources said. Once India names the Tamil groups, the government could consider halting military operations and lifting a fuel embargo on the northern Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

These points are contained in President Junius Jayewardene's reply to last week's message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the sources added.

Mr Gandhi told Mr Jayewardene that some Tamil groups were ready to resume peace talks on the basis of the "December proposals" worked out with Indian mediators, the sources said. Mr Gandhi also called on Colombo to create the necessary conditions to allow the talks to go ahead. He asked the Sri Lankan Government to halt military operations against the Tamil separatists and to lift the fuel embargo on the Jaffna peninsula, the sources added.

Mr Gandhi's assessment that some Tamil groups were ready to talk was based on discussions that Indian mediators — ministers Palaniappan Chidambaram and K. Natwar Singh — had in March with three Tamil separatist groups based in the Indian city of Madras, well informed sources said. The three groups reportedly were the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of students] (EROS) and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), at one time the main parliamentary opposition party.

Informed sources said that LTTE and EROS have rejected the December proposals which included an Indian plan to detach the mainly Sinhalese Ampara electorate from Eastern Province leaving a Tamil majority in the region.

LTTE spokesman Selvarajah Canagaratnam (alias Major Raheem) said this week that the LTTE insists on a merger of the north with the entire Eastern Province to form a Tamil homeland.

Reliable sources said only TULF seems ready to resume talks and without LTTE participation the government could not agree to the Indian conditions as the LTTE was still carrying out military operations.

The government was not prepared to talk about provincial councils and their powers, sources said. "That is now a closed chapter as these were thoroughly discussed," one source said.

If India wants to mediate on the basis of the December proposals Colombo was prepared to talk if it knew first who was to be involved, the source added.

Sri Lanka's separatist violence has reportedly claimed some 5,000 lives since mid-1983.

Tamil Group Seeks End to 'Vendetta Type Killings'

BK081333 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1244 GMT 8 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 8 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) has called on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to immediately stop the massacre of its cadres and release 300 of its rank captured by the LTTE as reprisals after the grenade attack on LTTE Deputy leader Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, according to today's Indian press reports monitored by *Lanka Puwath*.

The Madras datelined report in *The Hindu* said the EPRLF rejected the LTTE's denial of large scale killings of members belonging to other Tamil groups.

EPRLF called upon the LTTE to cease immediately vendetta type killings and release the estimated 300 cadres of the EPRLF and others who were rounded up on the pretext of an investigation into the attempt on Kittu's life.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Koran Recitation Competition

LD071022 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that the worst misery of Muslims is their neglect of the holy Koran.

Speaking in the closing day of the international Koran recitation competitions, he pointed out that weakness of Islamic countries stemmed from the fact that their rulers had become alienated from the holy Koran.

"The dignity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the imam who is the greatest man of ours in the Islamic world is due to their reliance on the Koran," Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani told the audience attending the competitions, held every year on Islamic Republic Day, April 1.

He said that resistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the U.S. and the USSR and the reactionaries is because of the power inspired by Islam.

More on characteristics of the holy book, he said that neglect of this divine book has led to Muslim disunity and has given way to injustice and oppression.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam then cited the example of the Tunisian regime and the anti-Islamic nature of Bourguiba's dictatorial regime who when it took power ordered the Tunisian Muslims not to fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The justification was that Tunisian workers should be able to work hard to keep the country's factories operating. If the real intention of such a measure was then well understood, Tunisians would not be presently stuck with an old man engaged in crushing and suppressing Muslims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added.

A man who negates such an unalternable divine order is not fit to be leader of a country, worst still, to be trusted by Muslims. Had Tunisians, he continued, been aware of the Koranic teachings, they would have rejected Bourguiba.

On problems of Muslims in other countries such as India, Rafsanjani said that some 180-200 million Muslims live in India played a vital role in India's independence. However, now the Indian prime minister has stated that he will suppress the Islamic movement there. He has also gone as far to support the conversion of a mosque into a temple, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added.

Expressing regret for the Islamic world's disregard of the miraculous power of the Koran he said "the ignorants in Kuwait and Bahrain who cling to America for protection, are unaware of the power of the Koran." He also accused them of being liars.

There is no greater sin, he added, than ignoring the Koran, the greater portion of which deals with crushing the aggressors and oppressors, he added.

At the end of the session prizes were awarded to winners of the competitions, in which 84 people from 28 countries participated.

Khamene'i Meets With Air Force Chief 7 April

LD081755 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Air Force Commander Colonel Mansur Sattari met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday and informed him of the combat readiness of the Air Force pilots and personnel.

During the meeting, Colonel Sattari also briefed the president, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), on current issues, various air operations as well as future plans of the Air Force in operational and technical fields.

Khamene'i Receives Ambassador to Libya

LD081831 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday, and briefed him on the mutual relations between the two Muslim countries of Libya and Iran.

President Khamene'i provided necessary guidelines to the envoy concerning Tehran-Tripoli relations.

Further Reportage on Visit of Ghanaian Delegation

Energy, Water Projects Discussed

LD080925 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Iran and Ghana discussed Tuesday afternoon possibility for technical cooperation in the field of water and electricity. The talks were held in a meeting between Deputy Energy Minister for International Affairs Mahmud Reza Adeli and the visiting Ghananian ministers of foreign affairs and energy, Obed Asamoah and Tsatu Tsikata.

The two sides decided that the Energy Ministry of Iran would take necessary measures for the implementation of development projects in Ghana including establishment of energy transmission network, irrigation network, and dam building.

The Ghanaian political-economic delegation, headed by Asamoah, arrived here Monday.

Naval Chief To Tour Port

LD081242 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., April 8, IRNA — Ghanaian Navy Commander Commodore Ben Chene-Kwapong currently in Iran arrived here Tuesday night for a one-day visit. The commander met with Iranian naval officials in the region and is scheduled to inspect naval bases and installations here.

The Ghananian official expressed hope that necessary grounds would be provided formutual logistic, repair, and supply cooperation as well as training of Ghanaian naval personnel in Iran, and exchange of experiences.

The Ghananian Navy commander arrived here Monday with a Ghanaian political-economic delegation headed by that country's foreign minister Obed Asamoah.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

NC081140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Following the talks between Mr Obed Asamoah, the Ghanaian foreign secretary, and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a memorandum of understanding on economic, political, and cultural issues was signed between Iran and Ghana last night in Tehran.

According to a correspondent from the Central News Unit, the Ghanaian foreign secretary, who is leading a high-ranking delegation to Tehran, expressed his satisfaction with the talks with Iranian officials, and said he hoped that this memorandum of understanding would lead to the further expansion of Iranian-Ghanaian relations.

Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, also expressed his pleasure over the visit to Iran by the Ghanaian delegation. In referring to the useful meetings this delegation held with Iranian officials, especially with our prime minister and president, he stated: We discussed the expansion of bilateral relations during our talks, and these talks ultimately led to our signing the memorandum of understanding. Mr Velayati also said he hoped all the points discussed would be implemented in the future. He said: Undoubtedly, the expansion of relations between Iran and Ghana can be a good example of cooperation between two nonaligned, Third World countries. Such visits and relations should definitely continue.

The report from the Central News Unit further states that the memorandum of understanding includes agreements on various economic, technical, and cultural issues.

In reference to expanding trade relations between the two countries, the Ministry of Commerce expressed its readiness to purchase some Ghanaian export products, such as coffee and cocoa. The memorandum also refers to technical cooperation in agriculture and forestry, the exchange of academicians and students, cooperation in the field of navigation and sharing of navigational expertise, joint investment in animal breeding and agriculture in Ghana, holding an international and economic exhibition in Ghana, opening an office in Accra for contracting companies affiliated with the Ministry of Energy, establishment of joint construction companies in both countries, bilateral cooperation in the use of the Ghanaian refinery, and the exploration for and extraction of oil, gas, and gold.

As regards oil cooperation, the Iranian side looked favorably on a request by Ghana for 10,000 barrels of oil to help meet the country's daily requirements, and announced its readiness to talk with Ghanaian oil officials. Both sides agreed oil experts would confer and reach a decision on this request.

They also agreed to set up a joint committee for political, technical, economic, cultural, and military cooperation. This committee will meet each year, alternating between Tehran and Accra, under the supervision of the two countries' foreign ministers.

The memorandum of understanding states that the Republic of Ghana announced it is ready to reopen the Ghanaian Embassy in Tehran. It was also decided Iran and Ghana will follow through with this until the decision is carried out.

The Central News Unit report adds the memorandum of understanding also refers to the exchange of various parliamentary, cultural, and political delegations, as well as to cooperation and coordination within the framework of bilateral relations in international organizations. It praises the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and African countries, in addition to the Islamic Republic's support for the just ideas of the African nations. Both Iran and Ghana agreed to further their cooperation in combatting the problems of Africa, and especially the problems in South Africa.

The Ghanaian foreign secretary also invited our foreign minister to pay an official visit to Ghana.

Oil Sale Agreement Signed

NC090701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] An agreement on the sale of oil to Ghana was signed at the end of the second round of talks between our oil minister and a high-ranking delegation from the Republic of Ghana.

The Oil Ministry's public relations office reports that the ministers of foreign affairs and oil and a number of high-ranking officials from the Republic of Ghana met with Mr Aqazadeh, our oil minister, in Tehran for the second time yesterday afternoon, continuing previous discussions.

At the meeting, which was held in a completely friendly and sincere atmosphere, an agreement was signed on the basis of which the Islamic Republic of Iran will deliver 15,000 metric tons of crude oil to Ghana annually. The agreement also provides for technical and scientific assistance in training, in the exploration and refining of oil, and in the exploitation of natural gas in Ghana.

The report also notes that the Ghanaian delegation inspected various parts of the Tehran refinery yesterday.

Ghanaian Delegation Departs

NC090749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Obed Asamoah, who came to Tehran leading a high-ranking political, economic, and military delegation to study expansion of relations between the Republic of Ghana and the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran today. He was seen off by Oil Minister Aqazadeh, Navy Commander Captain Malekzadegan, Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, the ambassadors

of a number of African countries, and the Iranian ambassador to Ghana.

Before leaving Tehran the Ghanaian foreign secretary granted us an interview, referring to the positive outcome of his and his delegation's talks with high-ranking Iranian officials, and he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm and friendly hospitality accorded them. He expressed hope that the reopening of the Ghanaian Embassy in Tehran next year will lead to expanded bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic, cultural, political, technical, and military fields.

Describing this visit as successful, he stated: A joint communique noting our countries' stands on world and regional issues and bilateral relations has been signed. The Ghanaian foreign secretary ended his remarks by noting the memorandum of understanding on economic, political, and cultural areas signed with his Iranian counterpart. He said: Delegations of experts will exchange visits to study potential bilateral economic and technical cooperation, with a view to maximizing bilateral relations in all fields.

Our correspondent reports that the Ghanaian foreign secretary -- whose delegation included the Ghanaian fuel and power secretary, the navy commander, and the Ghanaian Leadership Council's adviser on energy affairs -- held important discussions with high-ranking officials here on matters of mutual interest and international issues. Plans have been made for a joint committee on political, technical, economic, and cultural cooperation, headed by the foreign ministers of both countries, to meet annually, in Tehran and Accra alternately.

Our correspondent's report states that the text of the joint communique will be published today.

IRGC Urges Youths To Register for War Duty

LD082006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced in a statement that the great dispatch of the Sahib ol-Zaman [Lord of the Era] troops from all over the Islamic homeland will take place on the happy birthday of the Imam of the Era [the hidden, 12th imam] — may God Almighty hasten his noble advent!

The statement added: During these sensitive days of destiny and at a time when the criminal regime ruling in Baghdad is on the slippery slope of destruction — thanks to the continuous and crushing blows dealt to it by Islam's mighty combatants during the past year — and when the world's arrogance and regional reactionaries have given up their last hope for the continued existence of that moribund regime due to our selfless, warrior youth swarming onto the battlefronts, Baghdad's criminal regime should be obliterated from the face of the earth and the roots of aggression in the region should be dessicated!

In conclusion, the statement calls on all our warrior youth and various segments of the Hezbollahi Islamic nation to apply in person and register their names for dispatch to the battlefronts.

Student Volunteers Accepted

LD082019 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced in a statement that, in order to complete its required quota of cadres, it will accept volunteers from among 2d- and 3d-year secondary and technical school students in the current academic year as guard students following countrywide examinations.

The conditions for registration, the method of selection, and the privileges to which their membership will entitle them will be promulgated in the press and other mass media on 27 Farvardin [16 April].

Reportage on 'Karbala'-8' Operations in War With Iraq

2 Iraqi Battalions Destroyed

LD081321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report which I have just received: According to a report from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' base, the headquarters for the joint operations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continuing the "Karbala'-8" operations at dawn today, the fighters of Islam, relying upon assistance from Almighty God, in order to further destroy the Ba'thist army of Iraq, attacked their positions and succeeded in destroying a large section of the units of the Zionist enemy and in killing or wounding more than 1,500 of them. A number of others were captured. Among the captured Iraqis were Lieutenant Colonel Shayyad Ahmad, commander of one of the battalions of the 29th Brigade, and the deputy commander of this brigade.

During these operations which were carried out with heavy and accurate support from the artillery fire of the forces of Islam, one battalion from the 27th Mechanized Brigade and one battalion from 29th Brigade were completely destroyed; 40 percent of the 73d Brigade of Division Five was destroyed; and 30 percent of the remnants of Brigades 106 and 117 were destroyed.

At the moment heavy clashes are going on in the "Karbala'-8" operational zone with the complete superiority of the forces of Islam.

Further Details on Success

NC090457 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent who is covering the "Karbala'-8" operational theaters reports that, as the "Karbala'-8" operations continue, the combatants of Islam have succeeded, by virtue of their alertness and total readiness, in inflicting further blows on the weak Iraqi army. The Ba'thist enemy, which hoped to gather its forces for an attack, was confronted with a timely and rapid reaction by the Islamic combatants, who drove the Saddamists back and inflicted heavy damage and many deaths upon them.

The combatants of Islam destroyed 4 Iraqi Army brigades and killed or wounded 1,500 Saddamists in this operation. In addition, 25 POW's were taken behind the front. Our forces also succeeded in defeating a chemical warfare attack launched by the despicable enemy.

The report also states that clashes in the east Basra operational theaters continue to demonstrate the supremacy of the forces of Islam and that the Islamic combatants are pounding the Saddamists, with effective support from the artillery, armored units, the [Reconstruction] Jihad's engineering-combat contingents, the Revolution Guard Corps and the Islamic forces' swift-winged pilots.

Among the Iraqi Army personnel who were killed yesterday was Lieutenant Colonel Hisam 'Abd al-Hafiz Ahmad, commander of the 217th Artillery Brigade from the H Commando Brigade; and Staff Brigadier General Mahmud Hamadi, commander of the 2d Infantry Army in the "Karbala'-8" operational theater.

Peshmerga Shell Iraqi Pipe Lines

LD081556 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Peshmerga of Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) along with Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) shelled Iraqi troops sites in Shirvan-Mazin region, suburbs of Irbil Province (Iraq) inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy forces, Ramadhan Headquarters Center for Irregular Warfare announced.

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and one wounded, when a group of enemy forces triggered booby trap explosives set up by PUK forces in Marge-Sur region, said the headquarters.

Reliable sources reported from northern Iraq that Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries blasted the Iraq-Turkey oil pipe-lines in Zakhu region in an infiltration operation on April 4, as a result of which export of Iraqi oil through the lines was disrupted.

Iraqi Plane Downed

LD081649 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by an Iranian anti-aircraft fire around Bandar-e Mam, southwestern Iran, at 11:15 GMT Wednesday, said a military communique here today.

Communique number 2800 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's armed forces said that Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Tuesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several bunkers of theirs.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and several enemy bunkers and observation posts destroyed in the western fronts Tuesday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts especially in Zayd and Bubiyan, and heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi vehicle columns in Yebis, Chazabeh and Kushk inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops on Tuesday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces killed a group of Iraqi soldiers and destroyed at least 10 enemy gun emplacements and one vehicle in parts of the southern and western fronts Tuesday.

Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and inspected two cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Claim Denied

NC090617 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Last night, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters denied the Iraqi regime's claim it had repulsed an attack by the forces of Islam on the Al-'Amiq jetty [eskelleh]. He announced that following the massive defeats it has suffered in the "Karbala'-8" operational theater, the Ba'thist-Zionist regime that rules Iraq has fabricated reports about an attack by the Islamic forces on the Al-'Amiq jetty, adding: The forces of Islam have not mounted an operation against the jetty in the past 48 hours.

The spokesman also declared that the Iraqi regime is simply trying to mask its defeats in the "Karbala'-8" operational theaters and is resorting to such fabricated claims in an effort to boost the morale of its defeated forces.

Two Iraqi Planes Downed

LD090857 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Two Iraqi planes were downed over Karbala'-8 operational theater by the anti-aircraft fire of the ground forces, Thursday morning. This brings to three the number of Iraqi planes downed since the operations were launched early Tuesday.

1,800 Iraqi Casualties

LD090901 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran killed or wounded 1800 Iraqi troops and captured a number of others in the continuation of the victorious Karbala'-8 operations, Wednesday night. Muslim forces, supported by heavy artillery fire, inflicted damage totalling 70 percent on Iraqi mechanized brigade 27, killing or wounding most of its personnel. The remaining fled the area.

In this operation in which the most advanced military tactics were employed, Muslim forces of Iran took the enemy by surprise and completely destroyed remnants of infantry brigades 106 and 29.

Bombers Hit Iraqi Positions

LD090903 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Tens of Iranian fighter bombers in five separate missions bombarded Iraqi positions and fortifications in Karbala'-8 operational theater, Thursday morning. The Iranian fighter bombers, inflicting heavy losses on Iraqi troops both in men and equipment, returned safely to their bases.

New Positions Taken Near Basra

LD090944 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — One of the strongest Iraqi defence fortifications in Karbala'-8 operational region was taken over by the Muslim forces of Iran in their overnight operations, said a Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters statement Thursday morning.

The Iranian troops also destroyed large portions of enemy units, and seized new positions east of the Iraqi port city of Basra.

According to the statement, the Muslim combatants, while advancing west of the Fish Lake and after surrounding one of the strongest Iraqi defence fortifications, killed or wounded many Iraqi personnel and set ablaze enemy military equipment.

In the overnight operations a large number of Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and a large group of Iraqis were killed. Furthermore, according to the statement a tank battalion of armoured brigade 27 of division 5 after being surrounded, was destroyed by 50 percent and more than 30 of its tanks and personnel carriers were set ablaze.

Iraqi Counterattack Foiled

LD090949 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Muslim forces in Iran engaged enemy forces in a fierce overnight battle in Karbala'-8 operational theater. The reorganised enemy troops in the region launched massive efforts to retake the positions taken over by the Iranians. However, the ferocious battle put up by Iranian forces made futile all enemy attempts at doing so.

In the battle that continued throughout Wednesday night, Iranian troops continued dealing fresh blows on Iraqi troops, as a result of which the enemy sustained hundreds of new casualties. Meanwhile, some 100 Iraqis were taken captive in the overnight fighting and tens of enemy tanks, personnel carriers and armoured vehicles were set on fire.

The defeated Iraqi commanders attempted a heavy counterattack early Thursday morning which too was crushed inflicting still further casualties and damage on the enemy who was forced to retreat.

Iranian forces have consolidated the positions taken so far west of the man-made Fish Laki and have directed their heavy fire on the enemy troops.

Iraqi Casualties Reach 2,100

LD090956 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — In the Wednesday night blitz of Iranian forces on Iraqi troops in Karbala'-8 operational theater, crushing blows were dealt on infantry brigades 117 and 421.

Remnants of brigade 117 suffered 100 percent destruction and those of brigade 421, 50 percent.

Meanwhile, infantry brigades 45 and 428 which after suffering numerous defeats in the past, and had been reorganized and dispatched to the area, sustained 30 to 60 percent damage and their personnel were either killed, wounded, or captured. So far over 55 of the POWs have been transferred behind war fronts.

Latest reports put the number of Iraqi casualties of the Wednesday night operations of Muslim combatants at 2100.

Iraq Uses Chemical Weapons

LD090959 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — The Iraqi regime deployed chemical weapons against the Muslim forces of Iran twice in the Karbala'-8 operational region Thursday morning.

The anti-chemical units of the Iranian forces completely thwarted the enemy move.

One of the two enemy helicopters deployed in this mission was downed by the air defence units of the Muslim forces of Iran.

Iraqi Casualties Total 2,400

LD091003 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Some 300 Iraqi personnel of infantry brigade 104 were killed or wounded in Karbala'-8 operational region Thursday morning after it was dispatched to the region, bringing the number of enemy casualties to more than 2,400.

Meanwhile, another group of Iraqis was taken captive including several high-ranking officers and NCOs. So far some 84 of them have been transferred behind the war fronts.

Iraqi Defense Line Falls

LD091049 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 9 IRNA — As a result of the overnight operations in Karbala'-8 operational region, east of Basra, the fortified enemy 'horse shoe shaped defence line', fell Thursday morning.

Military experts describe the position as one of the strongest fortifications northwest of the Arvand River and east of Basra, built by army engineers. It has radar units, individual bunkers and places from where ambushes are conducted.

In the Iranian attack a large part of the mechanized brigade 27 of Iraqi division 5 and tens of modern tanks and personnel carriers were set ablaze.

More than 100 Iraqi forces were taken captive and five Iraqi senior commanders with colonel ranks were killed in last night's ambush. The enemy casualties in Wednesday night's operations amounted to 3,000.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD091134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Communique No 2 of Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the headquarters for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was issued as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim revolutionary ummah, heroic nation: In continuation of "Karbala'-8" operations, the powerful forces of Islam, relying on the bountiful God, in order to further destroy Iraqi forces and respond to their aggression and evil deeds in the Persian Gulf area, last night attacked the positions of the Ba'thist enemy. While destroying a large part of enemy units they also captured new positions east of Basra.

By advancing on the western side of Fish Lake the forces of monotheism occupied one of the most fortified defensive fortresses and delivered more heavy blows upon the Ba'thist Iraqi forces. In these operations which were supported by the artillery and antiarmor fire of the forces of Islam and in which advanced military tactics were used and which enjoyed the coordination of the active combat-engineering forces of the reconstruction crusade and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the fighters of Islam succeeded in completely destroying the remnants of 106th, 29th, and 117th Infantry Brigades of the enemy. Also, the 27th Mechanized Brigade; the 104th, 45th, and 448th Brigades; and the remnants of the 421st Infantry Brigade of the enemy were damaged 30 to 70 percent. With the destruction of one tank battalion from the 27th Armored Brigade, the 5th Division was destroyed 50 percent. Also, 30 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were set on fire.

In the course of these operations the fighters of Islam killed or wounded 3,000 Ba'thist forces and captured 112 of them. Thus, since the beginning of the victorious "Karbala'-8" operations, the number of enemy killed or wounded exceeds 7,000. Also, the number of POW's who have been evacuated since the beginning of these operations has reached 237, and includes a number of high-ranking officers and NCO's.

This morning, following their defeat in the operational zone, the Ba'thist forces sent out the 2d Commando Brigade of the General Staff in an attempt to engage in a counterattack. But it met with defeat as the result of the unprecedented courage and bravery of the fighters of Islam.

The fire of the antiaircraft defense of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps shot down two aggressive Iraqi aircraft.

In the course of the clashes last night and this morning the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy once again used chemical weapons, but they were completely neutralized as a result of the vigilance of antichemical defenses of the forces of Islam. Two enemy helicopters that were trying to engage in the chemical bombing of our positions were also shot down.

The high-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, side by side with the fighting forces, in order to provide cover and to destroy the positions of the Ba'thist enemy, with dozens of their fighter-bombers in five separate missions crushed enemy fortifications and returned safely to their bases.

At the moment, with the execution of heavy fire over enemy positions and fortifications, the fighters of Islam have prevented the enemy from engaging in any movement or redeployment.

Assistance comes from the Almighty, the all-wise God.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

'Karbala'-9' Operations Near Qasr-e Shirin Launched

LD091419 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 9, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran launched Karbala'-9 operations northeast of Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, before dawn Thursday. Heavy casualties and losses have been inflicted on Iraqi forces in the fresh Iranian assault.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters reported that Iranian Muslim forces broke through several Iraqi mine fields and other booby trapped barricades and canals during the operations, attacking enemy troops and dealing effective blows on them.

Eighty percent of the 2nd and 3rd battalions of Division 21 of Iraq's 2nd Corps were destroyed shortly after the operations, codenamed 'Ya Mahdi (AS) Adrekni' started, the report said.

The report added that opening of a new front in the western fronts by Iranian forces simultaneous with the successful Karbala'-8 assault in the southern fronts proved again the high capability and efficiency of the Muslim forces.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint headquarters of Iran's army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

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